

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS - SECOND WORKING SESSION

REF: MOSCOW 13077, STATE 205622, MOSCOW 13057

1. SECOND WORKING SESSION OF CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS TOOK PLACE AUG 20 AT MFA RECEPTION HALL. US PARTICIPANTS WERE COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND VICE CONSUL NAPPER WHILE ACTING CHIEF OF CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION REZNICHENKO HEADED FOUR MAN SOVIET GROUP.

2. US SIDE RAISED AGENDA ITEM ON POINTS-OF-ENTRY AUTHORIZED FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT BRIEFING PAPER. CONSOFFS REFERRED TO EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 621 OF JUN 9, 1975, AND RENEWED PROPOSAL THAT THE NUMBER OF POINTS OPEN FOR ENTRY AND EXIT OF US AND SOVIET OFFICIAL PERSONNEL BE RECIPROCALLY EXPANDED FROM THREE TO TEN. CONSOFFS NOTED THAT ONLY CHANGE IN CURRENT EMBASSY PROPOSAL FROM THAT CONTAINED IN NOTE 621 IS SUBSTITUTION OF KIEV FOR TASHKENT AS ONE OF TEN POINTS (MOSCOW 13054 AND STATE 205622). US SIDE EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF PROPOSAL, SUGGESTING THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVANCED PARTIES FOR CONSULATES IN NEW YORK AND KIEV. CONSOFFS ALSO POINTED OUT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY US OFFICIAL PERSONNEL SINCE SPRING OF 1975 IN EXIT/RE-ENTRY AT BREST.

3. IN REPLY TO US PROPOSAL, REZNICHENKO FIRST RHETORICALLY ASKED
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WHO HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORIGINAL DECISION TO LIMIT

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. CONSOFFS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US HAD BEEN FIRST TO SET UP SUCH LIMITS BUT THAT WE ARE NOW PROPOSING LIBERALIZATION TO ACCORD WITH DESIRE GENERALLY TO ESTABLISH RELAXED, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS. REZNICHENKO THEN "UNOFFICIALLY" INQUIRED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO SIMPLY PERMIT EXIT/ENTRY OF OFFICIAL PERSONNEL THROUGH ALL BORDER POINTS OPEN TO FOREIGNERS. CONSOFFS AGREED TO CHECK WITH DEPARTMENT AND REZNICHENKO STATED THAT SOVIET SIDE WOULD CONSIDER OFFICIAL US PROPOSAL FOR TEN EXIT/ENTRY POINTS. REZNICHENKO ALSO NOTED THAT, UNLIKE US SIDE, WHICH LIMITS EXIT/ENTRY TO SEVERAL CATEGORIES OTHER THAN OFFICIAL PERSONNEL, SUCH AS SOVIET GUSIN-ESSMEN AND TOURIST GROUPS, SOVIET SIDE LIMITS EXIT/ENTRY ONLY FOR OFFICIAL AMEMB AND CONGEN PERSONNEL.

4. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF US AGENDA ITEM, REZNICHENKO RAISED SOVIET AGENDA ITEM ON ENTRY/EXIT WITHOUT VISAS OF AEROFLOT AND PAN AMERICAN CREW MEMBERS TO US AND USSR, RESPECTIVELY. SOVIET PROPOSAL CALLS FOR SUBMISSION BY AEROFLOT AND PANAM TO US AND SOVIET EMBASSIES OF LISTS OF CREW MEMBERS ONCE A YEAR, BEGINNING WITH INITIAL RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF CA 1,000 NAMES. CREW MEMBERS ON THESE LISTS WOULD BE ADMITTED WITHOUT VISA UPON PRESENTATION AT POE OF VALID PASSPORT AND AIRLINE IDENTIFICATION. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS BETWEEN YEARLY EXCHANGES OF LISTS WOULD BE MADE BY PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL LISTS. ACCORDING TO SOVIET PROPOSAL, CREW MEMBERS COULD ENTER/EXIT WITHOUT VISA SEVEN DAYS AFTER SUBMISSION OF LIST CONTAINING THEIR NAMES.

5. CONSULAR COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT US ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET PROPOSAL IS UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF US LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT ALL ENTERING ALIENS HAVE VALID ENTRY VISA. US SIDE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT PROBLEM MIGHT BE RESOLVED BY RECIPROCAL ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS, VALID FOR AT LEAST TWO YEAR. TO CREW MEMBERS ON STANDBY LIST DESCRIBED PARA 4 ABOVE. REZNICHENKO RESPONDED THAT SOVIET SIDE WAS INTERESTED IN SOLUTION OF PROBLEM AND THAT MODALITIES COULD BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION.

6. COMMENT: REZNICHENKO'S WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PROBLEMS RAISED AS SOVIET AGENDA ITEMS ILLUSTRATE SERIOUS AND BUSINESS LIKE SOVIET ATTITUDE EXHIBITED TO DATE IN CONSULAR TALKS. US AND SOVIET GROUPS AGREED TO MEET AUG 25 WHEN US SIDE WILL RAISE AGENDA ITEMS ON CONTACT WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS TEMPORARILY DETAINED AND ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY.

REZNICHENKO STATED THAT SOVIET SIDE WILL RAISE AGENDA ITEMS ON VISAS PLACED IN SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DELIVERY OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO SOVIET CONSULATES GENERAL IN US.

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